

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Extension of Time

A request for a one month extension of the period for response to the Office Action mailed on September 21, 2005 is enclosed. The extended period for response expires on January 21, 2006.

Specification

The title is objected to as not descriptive. In response, the title is amended to "Image Forming Apparatus with Power Saving Characteristics", which is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Status

Claims 1-14 were presented. Claims 1 and 8 are amended. Claims 3 and 10, which have been incorporated into claims 1 and 8, are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11-14 are now pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Iwasaki (US 6,097,616). In response, independent claims 1 and 8 are amended to clearly distinguish over Iwasaki. In particular, claims 1 and 8 now require that, in a power save mode, the DC voltage of the first power unit is converted to a DC voltage of *another level* and fed to the second block of processing circuits.

Applicant's FIG. 1 illustrates a first power supply unit A for supplying DC voltage to a first block of processing circuits, a second power supply unit B for supplying DC voltage to a second block of processing circuits, and a voltage converting circuit 6, 6', 7 for converting DC voltage (for example, +5V) of the first power supply unit A to DC voltage of *another level* (for example, +3.3V, +12V, -12V) such that the DC voltage of another level is supplied to the second block of processing circuits in a power save mode. See applicant's paragraph [0025].

In Iwasaki's Figs. 1 and 6, by contrast, power supply voltages of +5V, +12V and +24V are output, respectively, from secondary rectifying circuits 4a, 4b and 4c.

The +5V output is branched into two lines, with a switch 5 being provided in one of the branches. The voltage on the branch without a switch is referred to as "+5VE" and is provided to circuits which must be continuously operated even in power saving mode. In power saving mode, circuits 4b and 4c are turned off (via the turn off of DC/AC converters 3b, 3c), causing turn off of the +12V and +24V power supply voltages. In addition, switch 5 is opened to turn off the +5V power supply in that branch. Thus, the +5VE voltage output from circuit 4a remains on in power saving mode, while the other voltages are turned off (Iwasaki, col. 2, lines 5-24).

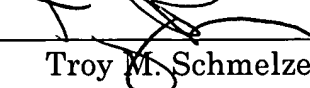
Thus, during power saving mode, Iwasaki cuts off some voltages and continues to supply the +5VE voltage *at the same level*. There is no *conversion to a voltage of another level* as is explicitly required by claims 1 and 8. Since Iwasaki does not disclose each and every element of claims 1 and 8, it cannot anticipate these claims or claims dependent thereon. The rejections under 35 USC 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in form for allowance. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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